Taking Care of Business

A Personal Readiness Action Plan for Soldiers and Families

Information to share with Soldiers and their Families
in conjunction with the Army video "Taking Care of Business"

U.S.ARMY

What this is about…

- ☑ Having that ***hard*** conversation with those you care about and those who care about you.
- ☑ Planning for the worst…
  - Estate Planning
  - Disability Planning

Why…

- ☑ Our Wounded Soldiers and their Families let us know!
  - To ease the burden on Families, we must be proactive and plan ahead
- ☑ The survivors of our Fallen Warriors let us know!
  - Feedback from survivors told us advance planning and understanding a little about the process will help during the “fog” that sets in after a tragic loss.

The “Taking Care of Business” video…

- ☑ A broad outline of key issues military Families need to discuss before deployment and periodically.
- ☑ A reference tool to outline your own Family Readiness Plan.

Like most families, an Army Family is defined in many different ways.
It includes…

- ☑ Spouses (married or pending a divorce)
- ☑ Children (minors and adult)
- ☑ Parents (married or divorced)
- ☑ Siblings (including half, step, or adopted)
- ☑ Single parents (with or without physical custody)
- ☑ Dual-military couples
- ☑ A Soldier who is also a long-term care provider for a Wounded Warrior Soldier

Family Readiness Planning should include everyone who may have a part in making a decision in the event something happens to you.

Preparing for the unexpected starts at home at any time.

Critical topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ✓ The DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, identifies Death Gratuity and Unpaid Pay beneficiaries as well as the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) of your remains
- ✓ Contact information for Primary and Secondary Next of Kin
- ✓ Wills and Trusts
- ✓ Powers of Attorney (General, Special, Specific, Durable, “Springing”)
- ✓ Family Care Plans and guardianship of minors
- ✓ Key information for: Bank accounts, rental/mortgage papers, credit card and utility bills, as well as the location of important documents (birth certificates, marriage certificate, passports, etc.)
- ✓ Rear Detachment Support and Family Readiness Group POCs
- ✓ Available services and resources: before, during, and after deployment

Personal Readiness Resources…

- ☑ Unit Leadership – Rear Detachment and Family Readiness Groups
- ☑ Military One Source
  - www.militaryonesource.com
- ☑ My Army Benefits
  - www.myarmybenefits.com
- ☑ The Military Health System - Tricare
  - www.tricare.mil
- ☑ The Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (FMWRC)
  - www.ArmyMWR.org
- ☑ The Army Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) Checklist (DA Form 7551)

These resources help you and your loved ones, before, during, and after a deployment. They do not, however, replace that *hard* conversation needed between you, the Soldier, and everyone who is part of your life.

Critical Steps for effective communication with our Families…

- ☑ Talk about what actions your Family member may expect in case you are wounded, ill, or injured.
  - Phone calls from the Army and the details they may/may not provide
  - Potential steps to bring a Family member to bedside (OCONUS or CONUS)
- ☑ Talk about what actions a Family member may expect in the case of your death.
  - Role of Casualty Notification Officer (CNO)
  - Role of Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO)
  - Who you have chosen as the person to direct disposition of your remains (PADD) and what the PADD's responsibilities encompass
- ☑ Ensure spouses and parents are aware of your intentions—this will reduce confusion, disappointment, and unnecessary conflict.
- ☑ Families must understand there are a variety of resources available, should they need them.

Deployment is tough…we are forced to have those *hard* conversations.

We must…

- ☑ Address the concerns covered in this brief; don't avoid these topics.
- Make important planning decisions early to minimize your Family's potential pain or anguish.
- Communicate, discuss, take action—three steps towards building a plan that will ensure your Family's goals are met.
- Have the moral courage to make it happen!